UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

LOUBERT ALEXANDRE, YVON AUGUSTIN, MAX CHARTELAIN, WILFRED GERMAIN, CLAUDE LESSAGE, and JEAN PIERRE, INDIVIDUALLY AS OWNERS OF YELLOW CAB MEDALLIONS IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK AND ON BEHALF OF A CLASS OF ALL OWNERS SIMILARLY SITUATED, AS WELL AS INDIVIDUALLY, TOGETHER WITH MAMNUNUL HAQ and ASIM AKHTAR, AS HOLDERS OF HACK LICENSES IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK AND AS REPRESENTATIVES ON BEHALF OF A CLASS OF ALL HOLDERS OF HACK LICENSES IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK, and the NEW YORK TAXI WORKERS ALLIANCE,

Civil Action No.

AFFIDAVIT OF JEAN VAILLANT PIERRE

Plaintiffs,

- against -

THE NEW YORK CITY TAXI AND LIMOUSINE COM-MISSION, MATTHEW DAUS, AS COMMISSIONER /CHAIR OF THE NEW YORK CITY TAXI AND LIMO-USINE COMMISSION, AND THE CITY OF NEW YORK,

	Defendants.
	x
STATE OF NEW YORK)
COLD WILL OF VIDWA WORK	SS.:
COUNTY OF NEW YORK)

JEAN VAILLANT PIERRE, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

- 1. I am the plaintiff in this proceeding and make this affidavit in support of plaintiffs' motion for temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction.
- 2. I reside in the county of Kings, New York. I am a small businessman who owns both his yellow cab medallion and a yellow cab vehicle. My medallion number is 6C36 and my hack license number is 395606. I have had my hack license since 1983, approximately twenty

\$1361.00 per month

four years

- 3. I bought my medallion in 1989 for the price of ONE HUNDRED FORTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS ("\$145,000.00").
- 4. I bought my yellow cab vehicle, which is a 2005 Toyota Sienna for approximately TWENTY SIX THOUSAND DOLLARS ("\$26,000.00") and with the additional "hack up" costs I paid a total of roughly THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS ("\$30,000.00"). ("Hack up" refers to the process of conversion of a civilian vehicle into a yellow medallion taxi cab vehicle).
- 5. My sole means of livelihood for the last almost twenty years has been to operate both my medallion and yellow taxi vehicle. I currently drive my yellow taxi vehicle approximately five days a week to earn my living.
- 6. My monthly operating costs of my medallion and yellow taxi cab are approximately THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS ("\$3,000.00"), itemized roughly as follows:

Medallion Loan Payment:

A)

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B)	Yellow Cab Vehicle Insurance Payment:	\$550.00 per month	
C)	Gas:	\$600.00 per month	
D)	Oil Change:	\$50.00 per month	
E)	Rate Card:	\$1,410 every two	
		years	
F)	Tax Stamp:	\$1,000.00 per year	
G)	License Renewal Fee:	\$120.00 every two	
		years	
H)	Annual Drug Test Fee:	\$25.00 per year	

- Wear and Tear/Maintenance: I)
- \$2500.00 per year
- 7. Defendant New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission ("TLC") mandated that before August 1, 2007 I sign a contract for the installation of the Taxi Technology System ("TTS") with one of their chosen four vendors. The pieces of equipment necessary to operate TTS are: 1) a text message box; 2) a credit card machine, and 3) a Passenger Information Monitor and 4) software to create an electronic trip sheet, which includes GPS technology. All of these items must be physically installed inside of my taxi on my taxi no later than first week of January 2008, which is my first inspection date after October 1, 2007.
- For installation of the TTS technology, TLC is forcing me to bear an upfront 8. installation cost, which I understand, from the TLC website, the TLC has estimated to be between "\$10 and \$4,115."
- 9. From the TLC's website, I have learned that the TTS technology also requires me to pay to the vendor a monthly service fee which I understand the TLC has estimated to cost me between "\$43 and \$200".
- 10. I also understand from the TLC website that the TLC cites the maximum costs of the technology over the term of a contract as being "between \$2,900 and \$7,200 based upon the contract between the vendors and the TLC, advertising fees may offset costs."
- 11. The TLC has also mandated that if the technology malfunctions, I am required to report it within two hours and if it must be repaired within forty eight hours from the particular vendors' service center.
- 12. Each time the technology malfunctions, I will have to take my medallion and vehicle off the road and loose my livelihood while I take the taxi to the repair shop and for the time period my taxi is kept off the road while the malfunction is being fixed, without any

Filed 09/27/2007

compensation by the TLC.

- The TLC's rules also say that I must bear the cost of the transaction fee for each 13. credit and debit card transaction which they have estimated will be no less than 2.5% and may be as high as five percent (5%) of each fare. I believe that such transaction fees will result in a huge loss of revenue for me.
- 14. I do not believe I can afford the burden of the extra costs imposed by TTS no matter which vendor I choose to sign with.
- 15. The TLC is forcing me to take on these costs when I am already burdened with the present operating costs of my medallion and yellow taxi cab vehicle.
 - 16. I have not signed a contract with any of the vendors to date.
- I received a letter from the TLC, stating that if I don't sign a contract with a 17. vendor by August 1, 2007, I could face fines and the suspension of my medallion. A copy of the TLC Letter is annexed hereto as Exhibit A.
- On or about August 24, 2007, I received Summons #PIM0109 from the TLC 18. requiring my appearance for a hearing scheduled at 10:00 A.M. on September 7, 2007 charging me with a violation of TLC Owner Rules Sec.1-11(g) for failure to sign a contract with a TLC authorized vendor to "buy, lease, rent or use a Taxicab Technology Enhancements System and Service for [my] medallion". Violation of Rule 1-11(g) carries a penalty of "\$250 and suspension until compliance". See Copy of Summons #PIM0109 as Exhibit B attached hereto. See copy of Rule 1-11(g) in TLC's TTS Regulations attached as Exhibit A to Complaint.
- 19. The TLC has also said that if I don't install the technology into my yellow taxi cab no later than my inspection date which falls on the first week of January, I could still face fines and the suspension of my medallion.

- 20. If the TLC suspends my medallion because I have not signed the contract or if I do not install the technology, I will face the irreparable harm of not being able to earn my livelihood, while continuing to bear the fixed costs for my medallion and vehicle payments.
- 21. On the other hand, if I do sign a contract with a vendor, I will be forced to install TTS and I believe I will be driven out of my job because I cannot afford the extra costs associated with the TLC technology mandate.
- 22. I also feel that the GPS component of TTS is an invasion of my privacy because it will track me every single minute of the day, seven days a week and twenty four hours each day, even when I am off-duty and using my yellow taxi vehicle for my own personal use.
- 23. While I always comply with TLC's rule prohibiting me from refusing a fare, as part of my occupation each day I make a personal choice of where to start my shift, when to take my bathroom and food breaks, and many other factors based on what I believe to be most profitable and suitable on a given day. I deem this information and even more significantly, information such as the choices of routes that I make to transport my passengers from Point A to Point B as my proprietary information. GPS will capture and record information. As a small businessman, I feel my right to keep such information private is as valuable to me as Coke's recipe of secret ingredients is to Coke.
- 24. The medallion, the yellow taxi cab vehicle, and the hack licence are my properties. I do not think its fair that the government should force me to rip up my taxi cab and put in all this new technology into my property when I never asked for it, I have no desire for it, and it is too expensive for me to afford. When I purchased my medallion, taxicab and obtained my hack license, I did not know that one day the government would be allowed to reach its hands into my property to install four pieces of physical gadgetry and make me bear the

exorbitant cost of operating such a technology. My investment in the medallion and yellow taxi cab vehicle should be looked at no differently than that of any other small business owner.

25. If the court does not intervene, <u>I face suspension of my medallion on September</u>

7th, 2007 for failure to sign a contract with a vendor. I do not want to install TTS into my property and the TLC is forcing me to do so or else face the irreparable harm of both losing my livelihood and suffering a physical permanent change to the inside of my property without my consent.

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Sworn to before me this

JIANI HUBLIC

NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF NEW YORK
NO. 01RO6142270
QUALIFIED IN BRONX COUNTY
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES MAR. 13, 20

EXHIBIT A



Office of the Chief of Staff 40 Rector Street, 5th Floor New York NY 10006 Tel: 212-676-1017, Fax: 212-676-2002

Matthew W. Daus, Commissioner/Chair

July 30, 2007

6C36 PIERRE, JEAN VAILLANT 1094 NEW YORK AVENUE B7 BROOKLYN, NY 11203

Final Notice

Medallion owner,

This is notice that on august 1, 2007, you are required to sign up with a Vendor To install the technology systems in your vehicle.

If you have not signed a contract by august 1, 2007, the TLC will mail you a Summons. You will be subject to a fine and your medallion may be suspended.

Sincerely yours,

Chief of Staff

EXHIBIT B

Uniformed Services Bureau 24-55 Brooklyn Queens Expressway West Woodside, NY 11377

Matthew W. Daus, Commissioner/Chair

Today's Date:

8/22/2007

PIERRE, JEAN VAILLANT 1094 NEW YORK AVENUE B7 BROOKLYN, NY 11203

Your Medallion #: 6C36

THIS IS SUMMONS # PIM0109

You are hereby charged with a violation of the N.Y.C. Taxi and Limousine Commission's (TLC) Owners Rules, Sec. 1-11(g), in that as of August 1, 2007, you failed to sign a contract with an authorized taxicab technology service provider to buy, lease, rent or use a Taxicab Technology Enhancements System and Service for each medallidn you own.

You are hereby summoned to appear for a hearing at the TLC's Adjudications Division, located at 32-02 Queens Boulevard, Long Island City, New York 11101 at 10:00:00 AM on 9/7/2007

WHEN APPEARING AT YOUR HEARING YOU HAVE THE FOLLOWING RIGHTS /OBLIGATIONS:

YOU MUST APPEAR IN PERSON TO ANSWER THIS SUMMONS. THE PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF SECTION 1-11(g) OF THE TLC'S MEDALLION OWNER'S RULES IS \$250 AND SUSPENSION UNTIL COMPLIANCE. YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR WILL BE CONSIDERED A DEFAULT.

IF YOU HAVE A CONTRACT OR CONTRACTS WITH AN AUTHORIZED TAXICAB TECHNOLOGY SERVICE PROVIDER, YOU MUST BRING AN ORIGINAL OR ORIGINALS OF THE CONTRACT TO THE HEARING.

- You must bring with you an original dated contract for the Taxicab Technology Enhancements System and Service for each medallion you own, signed by an authorized contractor and you or your taxicab agent. If your taxicab agent signed on your behalf, you must also bring your original taxicab agent contract.
- You may be accompanied by an attorney or a non-attorney representative duly authorized by the Commission. If you are a corporation, it may be represented by an officer, director, or employee of the corporation designated as an agent for the corporation. If you are a partnership, it may be represented by any partner. You may also bring a witness(es) and any evidence that supports your case.
- 3. If you are found in violation of Section 1-11(g), your license will be suspended until compliance and all fines must be paid in cash or by certified check, money order or credit card on the date that the fine is imposed. Failure to pay any fine imposed will result in further grounds to suspend your license(s) and may result in other actions to collect such fine.
- 4. Failure to appear for your scheduled hearing without having been granted an adjournment or withdrawal of the complaint by the TLC will result in a hearing being held and a decision rendered in your absence, which may result in a fine and/or suspension of your licensc(s).
- 5. Any request for an adjournment must be made in person at the TLC's Adjudications Division at least five (5) business days prior to and excluding the hearing date.

COMPLAINANT: Michael Friscia

"I certify that this is a true copy of a summons inscrted by me in an envelope addressed to the named respondent at the address set forth thereon and deposited in the normal course of business with the TLC mail service."

TLC Employee Signature

Government Services a Information for NYC www.nyc.gov/taxi

I Lev Nathaniel Kropsky, Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff of the Taxi and Limousine Commission, certify that among my primary duties and responsibilities are those pertaining to the Outreach of the Technology Enhancement Project to the taxicab industry.

The purpose of the Outreach is to publicize the compliance deadlines of medallion owners to sign contracts to buy, lease, rent or use the Taxicab Technology Enhancement System and Service.

Outreach has included multiple mailings which were sent to all medallion owners at the addresses listed in TAMIS, a TLC data base.

The mailings included both mass marketing mailings from each of the four Enhancement Vendors to all medallion owners in May of 2007, which included Industry Notices for the approved providers of the technology systems and services and informing of the August 1, 2007 deadline to contract, and a Final Notice of the August 1, 2007 Sign-Up Deadline which was sent on July 30, 2007, to all medallion owners who had not yet signed a contract with a vendor. The Final Notice informed the medallion owners that Summonses would be issued to those who were not in compliance.

Additionally TLC held various Outreach events at its Woodside facility. These included a Tech Enhancement Seminar on September 30, 2006 as well as Tech Vendor Expos on June 25, 2007 and July 10, 2007. Each of these seminars was publicated on the TLC website. The notice of the third seminar contained a seminder of the August 1, 2007 Sign-Up Deadline.

Further Woodside Outreach included a feedback session with drivers of the 200 heta test cars on May 7, 2007, and vendor marketing and showcasing of test vehicles on multiple dates at the Woodside inspection latter beginning on May 7, 2007.

Furthermore, Outreach at JFK was held April, May, June, and July, 2007.

Othreach was held at LGA in April and May 2007.

Outreach was held at Fleets on various days in April and May, 2007.

Finally, the TLC posted an Industry Notice dated June 7, 2007 on the TLC website advising of the August 1, 2007 deadline for medallion owners to contract and explaining to medallion owners the technology program and their responsibilities. This June 7, 2007 Industry Notice was preceded by three notices dated May 25, 2007, June 1, 2007, and June 6, 2007 advising of authorized providers of the technology systems services and the August 1, 2007 deadline to contract. A June 26, 2007 Industry Notice posted on the TLC website again provided the August 1, 2007 deadline.

The four authorized vendors have submitted copies of signed contracts and lists of medallions that have signed up for the Taxicab Technology System and Service. Approximately 12,850 medallion owners signed contracts.

On August 22, 2007, in the ordinary course of business, TLC staff for the Taxicab Technology Enhancement System reviewed those listings and the list of medallions that are in storage. TLC staff compared the authorized vendors' lists with the TLC database and extracted medallion numbers of owners who have not contracted for the system and services. The Respondent is not on the vendors' lists, the medallion is not in storage and the TLC has been provided with no record that the medallion owner has signed a contract for a system and services.

A list of these medallions owners was sent to the Uniform Service Bureau of TLC on August 22, 2007 to issue summonses for failure to comply with Rule 1-11(g).

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